

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 11-19, as specified in the following listing of claims.

The listing of claims given below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A device for operating a first discharge lamp (71) and a second discharge lamp (72), the device comprising:

first and second terminals (20,21) for coupling to a first filament (711) of the first lamp (71);

third and fourth terminals (22,23) for coupling to a second filament (712) of the first lamp (71);

fifth and sixth terminals (24,25) for coupling to a first filament (721) of the second lamp (72);

seventh and eighth terminals (26,27) for coupling to a second filament (722) of the second lamp (72);

a resonance inductor (LRes) coupled to the seventh terminal (26);

a resonance capacitor (CRes) coupled between the first terminal (20) and the seventh terminal (26);

a current control device (PTC);

a secondary coil (La) magnetically coupled to the resonance inductor (LRes) and electrically coupled to the current control device (PTC); and

a heating transformer comprising a primary coil (L<sub>hp</sub>), a first secondary coil (L<sub>hs1</sub>), a second secondary coil (L<sub>hs2</sub>), and a third secondary coil (L<sub>hs3</sub>), wherein:

the primary coil (L<sub>hp</sub>) is coupled in series with the current control device (PTC) and the secondary coil (La);

the first secondary coil (L<sub>hs1</sub>) is coupled between the first and second terminals (20,21);

the second secondary coil (L<sub>hs2</sub>) is coupled between the fourth and sixth terminals (23,25); and

the third secondary coil (L<sub>hs3</sub>) is coupled between the seventh and eighth terminals (26,27).

12. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein the current control device (PTC) is a PTC thermistor.

13. (New) The device of claim 11, further comprising a sequential starting capacitor ( $C_{seq}$ ) coupled between the fifth and seventh terminals (24,26).

14. (New) A device for operating a first discharge lamp (71) and a second discharge lamp (72), the device comprising:

first and second terminals (20,21) for coupling to a first filament (711) of the first lamp (71);

third and fourth terminals (22,23) for coupling to a second filament (712) of the first lamp (71);

fifth and sixth terminals (24,25) for coupling to a first filament (721) of the second lamp (72);

seventh and eighth terminals (26,27) for coupling to a second filament (722) of the second lamp (72);

a first resonance inductor (LRes1);

a second resonance inductor (LRes2) coupled between the first resonance inductor (LRes1) the seventh terminal (26);

a resonance capacitor (CRes) coupled between the first and seventh terminals (20,26);

a current control device (PTC);

a secondary coil (La) magnetically coupled to the second resonance inductor (LRes2) and electrically coupled to the current control device (PTC); and

a heating transformer comprising a primary coil (L<sub>hp</sub>), a first secondary coil (L<sub>hs1</sub>), a second secondary coil (L<sub>hs2</sub>), and a third secondary coil (L<sub>hs3</sub>), wherein:

the primary coil (L<sub>hp</sub>) is coupled in series with the current control device (PTC) and the secondary coil (La);

the first secondary coil (L<sub>hs1</sub>) is coupled between the first and second terminals (20,21);

the second secondary coil (L<sub>hs2</sub>) is coupled between the fourth and sixth terminals (23,25); and

the third secondary coil (L<sub>hs3</sub>) is coupled between the seventh and eighth terminals (26,27).

15. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the current control device (PTC) is a PTC thermistor.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, further comprising a sequential starting capacitor ( $C_{seq}$ ) coupled between the fifth and seventh terminals (24,26).

17. (New) A device for operating a first discharge lamp (71) and a second discharge lamp (72), the device comprising:

first and second terminals (20,21) for coupling to a first filament (711) of the first lamp (71);

third and fourth terminals (22,23) for coupling to a second filament (712) of the first lamp (71);

fifth and sixth terminals (24,25) for coupling to a first filament (721) of the second lamp (72);

seventh and eighth terminals (26,27) for coupling to a second filament (722) of the second lamp (72);

a resonance inductor (LRes) coupled to the seventh terminal (26);

a resonance capacitor (CRes) coupled between the first terminal (20) and the seventh terminal (26);

a current control device (PTC) coupled to a tap on the resonance inductor (LRes); and

a heating transformer comprising a primary coil ( $L_{hp}$ ), a first secondary coil ( $L_{hs1}$ ), a second secondary coil ( $L_{hs2}$ ), and a third secondary coil ( $L_{hs3}$ ), wherein:

the primary coil ( $L_{hp}$ ) is coupled between the current control device (PTC) and the seventh terminal (26);

the first secondary coil ( $L_{hs1}$ ) is coupled between the first and second terminals (20,21);

the second secondary coil ( $L_{hs2}$ ) is coupled between the fourth and sixth terminals (23,25); and

the third secondary coil ( $L_{hs3}$ ) is coupled between the seventh and eighth terminals (26,27).

18. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the current control device (PTC) is a PTC thermistor..

19. (New) The device of claim 17, further comprising a sequential starting capacitor ( $C_{seq}$ ) coupled between the fifth and seventh terminals (24,26).